

**TOWN OF NAMAKAGON**  
**For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Tuesday, October 13, 2020**  
**At - NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL – 7:30pm**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Chairman Rasmussen, Supervisors Jim Krueger and Jack McGregor, Treasurer Arlene Skultety, Clerk Laura Bjork and 8 others.

Agenda was posted at the Town Hall and on the website and noticed in the Daily Press. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes from the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> were presented. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to dispense the reading of the minutes and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #3587 through #3628. Town Financials are available to the public upon request to the Treasurer.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING REPORT** – Supervisor Krueger reported that the Plan Commission discussed the Bayfield County Special A request for the Kline property. There was no cease of work even though it had not been approved. The Plan Commission recommended the request to the Town Board. The commission is concerned about the need for a commission. At the November meeting, the commission would like to meet with the board to discuss this issue.

**LIBRARY REPORT** – The Library report will be posted on the website.

**Update on Road Projects** – Chairman Rasmussen met with the Forest Service at Forest Lodge and discussed repairs to Garmisch Road. The Forest Service is working on building a parking lot where the Nature Trail goes out. They want the town involved, because they are considering cutting the hill down near the lot. The town also is looking into cutting another hill on that road as well. The Town will work together with the Forest Service and will be applying for money on that project. The Town will also be applying for TRIPP money for Lake 5 Road and Birch Bend Road, which is a 50/50 cost share program. The Road Crew has been doing crack sealing this past week. Treasurer Skultety noted that Bear Point Road needs repairs. Mike Jacobs thanked the workers for doing the culvert on Missionary Point. There was discussion on the repairs planned for County Hwy M. Chairman Rasmussen stated that originally Bayfield County was going to work on the stretch of the highway from the Town Hall to Frels Road because there were some concerns from the National Park Service about the bridge. Hopefully, that will be resolved so it can be done all the way to the Town of Cable. The project will start next spring and include 3' paved shoulders. Steve Bollig noted that the National Park Service would like a bigger abutment and a raised guardrail for the bridge.

**Discussion and possible action of Town Board recommendation for Bayfield County Planning and Zoning for a Class A Special Use Permit for Shane and Raven Kline**

**for ATF Shoreland grading to the property located at 44605 Bay Drive** – This is an after-the-fact permit, as the work there has already been done. Bayfield County doubles the fees when it is an after-the-fact permit. The Comp Plan recommended approval. Dick Hemsey stated that he spoke with Rob Schierman from Bayfield County regarding the work that was being done at this property, and he stated that everything was in compliance with the county. Supervisor Krueger stated that this is a county issue as they did not address this issue sooner. Clerk Bjork spoke with the county and they were concerned with the shoreland issues, and wanted it corrected as soon as possible. The Town Board chose to make no motion or recommendation to Bayfield County.

**Discussion and possible action on opening ATV Routes on the following roads:**

**Juneks Point Road, Circle Drive S. and Bay Drive** – There was a concern about how to stop people from going through the closed roads. There was discussion on signs, which would need to be placed by the town as they are on town roads, such as “no ATV’s past this point” and/or “local access”. The ATV club is working on getting signatures for the rest of the loop. Chairman Rasmussen stated that the petition that was received has 2/3rds of the residents and property owners’ signatures for support. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve opening ATV Routes on Junek’s Point Road, Circle Drive S and Bay Drive. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor. There was discussion on the remaining roads that were not open. The Annual Meeting Agenda will address opening all roads to ATV’s in the town. MOTION carried.

**Discussion and possible action on re-assessing the town property values** – The last re-assessment was done in the Town in 2007. A re-assessment does not need to be done unless there is more than 10 percent discrepancy of the full value of the properties. The town is under this percentage. A re-assessment will cost the town \$59,250. This will be placed on the Annual Meeting Agenda.

**Discussion and possible action on a Short Term Rental Permit for Mike Best through RRP, located at 23255 Missionary Point Drive, Cable, WI 54821** – MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve the Short-Term Rental permit for Mike Best through RRP, located at 23255 Missionary Point Drive, Cable, WI 54821. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger. There was discussion on the process of receiving a Short-Term Rental permit and ATV usage with renters, which was moved to public comment. MOTION carried.

**Discussion and possible action on a contract for pest control with Plunkett’s Pest Control** – The Town currently has service with BugMeisters twice a year at a cost of \$100 for the Fire Department near the Town Hall and also \$100 for the Pioneer Station, and \$125 for the Town Hall. These treatments do not include rodent control. A proposal was given by Plunkett’s Pest Control for \$330 per year for the Pioneer Station and \$660/year for both the Town Hall and Fire Department, which would include rodent control and monthly treatments. The Town Board will take time to consider.

**Discussion on expenditures for the Routes to Recovery Grant.** – The Routes to Recovery is a reimbursement grant program for expenditures necessary due to COVID-19. The Town received \$3,230.40 and has a balance of \$1,769.60 left in the grant. There

will be costs to claim for the November Election and a bit more expenses for installing the sinks and hands-free faucets. There was discussion on the possibility of spending the rest of the funds on an Air purifier, paper folder, toilets that flush hands free and/or supplies for remote meetings. The Town Board agreed to analyze what funds are left after elections and sinks and then purchase whatever can be afforded with what is left.

**Discussion and possible action on credit card payments** – The Forest Service called wanting to drop TV’s off at the Recycling Center, but only had a credit card for payment. There was discussion on the convenience of purchasing with a credit card. The price for the square terminal is \$299 and then there would be a 2.6% charge plus \$.10 per swipe. The Town could choose to include the extra charges to the customer, so the town would not need to pay for this service. The Town Board will take some time to consider.

**Discussion and possible on Ordinance #24-B Accommodation Tax Ordinance** – A combination Short Term Rental Permit and Accommodation Permit application was presented. The cost for the Short-Term Rental Permit is \$75 and the Accommodation Permit is \$2. The Town Board agreed to make it one fee of \$100. A revised Ordinance #24-B Accommodation Tax Ordinance was presented to reflect the changes. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the changes in Ordinance #24-B Accommodation Tax Ordinance and raise the fee for the combination Short-Term Rental Permit and the Accommodation Permit to \$100 and remove the \$2 Accommodation fee. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

**Discussion and possible action of updating the Employee Handbook** – MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve to remove the statement “but at least 20 hours weekly” in the Employment Classification, Regular, Part-Time, in the Employee Handbook. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

**Discussion and possible action on Amendments to the Great Divide Ambulance Service Joint Resolution** – This is not needed to be approved as the levy limit adjustment does not apply for the township.

Chairman Rasmussen appointed Ruth Goetz as an Election Worker for the term January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

**Review Correspondence:**

**Cable Natural History Museum Sponsorship** – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve sponsoring the Cable Natural History Museum \$250. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor. It was noted to sponsor with Room Tax monies. MOTION carried.

**Public Comment** – Steve Backlund stated that the Town Board may approve too quickly the Short-Term Rentals. He explained that he has seen how renters can ruin the areas they are in as they are not part of the community and do not consider the rules and regulations that are in place. Supervisor Krueger responded that this issue was worked on for about 10 years. The County made rules, and the state came along and said that we can’t stop

people from having Short-Term Rentals, but we can put stipulations on them. The Town does have strict stipulations with Short-Term Rentals. Mike Jacobs stated that there is a problem with renters of Short-Term Rentals using ATV/UTV's on Missionary Point. If Bayfield County came out and ticketed the people, what effect does it have on the rental owners? Are the owners telling people there is not any ATV/UTV routes open there? Supervisor Krueger responded that the town needs to hear about the complaints when it is happening. If there is specific information on a complaint, the town can refer to the permit, which stipulates an occupancy limit and can be addressed as well, if necessary. The town has sent letters to the rental owners and stated that this cannot happen, or their rental permit will be revoked. Supervisor McGregor added that it would be great if there was proof along with the complaint, perhaps pictures of vehicles in violation with plate numbers. There was discussion on the signs that were on the road for ATV/UTV traffic. The Town Board agreed to send a letter to remind rental owners that Missionary Point Road is NOT an ATV/UTV route and if there is no compliance, the Short-Term Rental will be revoked. Steve Bollig mentioned that an issue arises when the town does not have all the town roads open to ATV/UTV's, putting homeowner against homeowner. Chairman Rasmussen stated that this can be addressed at the annual meeting. Steve Bollig mentioned there is an event this weekend, and ATV's will be everywhere. Snowmobile Routes were discussed. At the present time, the snowmobile club does not have a trail going into Clam Lake.

**Discussion on 2021 Budget** – An updated 2021 budget spreadsheet was presented. To balance the budget, there was a deficit of approximately \$70,000. The Town Board discussed repairs to the Town Hall, which would be an additional \$70,000 in expenditures. The Town Board decided to use the balance of funds to balance the 2021 budget and ask for a levy increase to do the repairs at the Town Hall. The Town Board will meet Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to review and make a final decision.

**Set date for the next Board meeting November 10, 2020 @ 7:30pm, Budget work meeting, Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.**

Public Budget Meeting and Special Elector Meeting and Board Meeting Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 7pm

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 9:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk